

· Appl. No. 10/058,525
Amdt. dated 12/9/04
Reply to Office action of 9/9/04

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-10 remain in the application. Claims 1, 9, and 10 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled.

Initially, applicant notes the Examiner's statement that claim 2 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Independent claims 1, 9, and 10 have been amended to include the allowable features of dependent claim 2, which is canceled herewith.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure because of an inconsistency of the language in line 10 with the context of the language in the Abstract. The Examiner's suggested correction has been made.

In item 4 on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1-10 because of certain informalities.

While the Examiner's suggested corrections have been made to facilitate prosecution of the instant application, notwithstanding the changes applicant wishes to point out that the original language in the claims referred to by the Examiner is believed to be clear since it recited the format of **one of features A and B** which is claim language commonly used in U.S. Patent Practice. In any event, the Examiner's suggested language format of **one of features A or B** has been used in the present amended claims.

In item 6 on page 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1, 9, and 10 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Hori et al. (U.S. 5,587,930) (hereinafter "Hori") in view of Chao (U.S. 5,519,740) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In item 7 on page 7 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 3-6 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Hori in view of Chao and further in view of Griffiths et al. (U.S. 5,625,574) (hereinafter "Griffiths") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In item 8 on page 9 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 7 and 8 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Hori in view of Chao and further in view of Reid et al. (U.S. 6,298,308) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

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All of the rejections will be discussed together because the amendments to the claims are deemed to be dispositive of the rejections.

The rejection has been noted and the independent claims have been amended as discussed above to include the allowable features of claim 2 in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in the original claims of the instant application.

Because the independent claims include the allowable features of claim 2, the rejections are deemed moot and discussion of the prior art is not deemed necessary.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1, 9, or 10. Claims 1, 9, and 10 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

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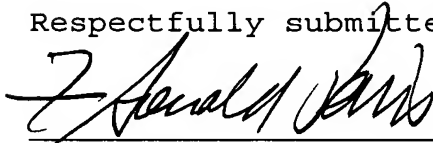
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-10 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for reply to this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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FDP/bb

December 9, 2004

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